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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, whose love is all about and whose mercy is without end, we pray that Your Spirit will lead us in a better way, Your Word will guide without fail and that by Your grace we will know lives of joy and serenity and peace. Cleanse our thoughts from those feelings that tear us down—from envy or resentment or rancor—and instead fill our hearts and souls with the light of Your Spirit, the beauty of Your company, and the steadfast hope that is Your gift to us. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York [Mr. FRISA] will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FRISA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize 10 1-minute speeches on each side.

BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR MR. MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1995, our friend, Mr. Medicare, will turn 30 years old. His trustees recently told him that he is very sick, but he knows that if he just changes some of his habits, he might be able to survive. Let us take a look at some of his birthday cards.

Here is one: "Dear Mr. Medicare: We're very sorry to hear you will be dead in 7 years. We can't help find a cure because we're focusing all of our efforts on misleading the public about your illness. Sincerely, the Democrat caucus."

Here is another: "Dear Mr. Medicare: We hope you're feeling better and are assured that we are doing everything we can to help find a cure for your sickness. Especially considering all the people that you help, we believe it is vitally important that you are around for years to come. Working hard for your future, the Republican conference."

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious which card gives comfort to Mr. Medicare and all the people he helps.

SPEAKER'S PASSION FOR CAMPAIGN REFORM COOLING DOWN

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, exactly 1 month ago today, I publicly congratulated Speaker GINGRICH for his historic New Hampshire handshake with President Clinton.

The Speaker agreed to establish a nonpartisan commission that would write campaign and political reform legislation.

I urged the Speaker to use the independent commission bill I introduced in March with MARTY MEEHAN, TIM JOHNSON, and others as a starting point.

I sincerely hope that as Washington's summer weather has heated up, the Speaker's passion for reform has not cooled down.

Because, while the Speaker extended his hand to the President, the Republican National Committee is using both hands to grab huge chunks of special interest campaign cash.

It is incredible that the Republican majority deleted new meat inspection rules at the behest of large companies.

Republicans are catering to special interests at the expense of the public interest.

SIMPLIFY

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have one simple proposal to strengthen Medicare—and that is to simplify Medicare. Nearly all seniors have two parts to their Medicare coverage—Medicare part A and Medicare part B—in addition to a MediGap policy. This system is too complicated.

There is too much paperwork. There are too many confusing forms. There are too many documents written by lawyers rather than real people. There are too many difficult rules and restrictions. There are too many examples of fraud and abuse by doctors and hospitals. Medicare must be simplified so that all of us, not just lawyers, can understand the Medicare system.

By simplifying Medicare, we can preserve and strengthen Medicare for those who are currently on it, and for those who are counting on it. Simplifying Medicare is a change seniors deserve and want.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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